GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3778
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
RAIN WATER HARVESTING .
BHAN SINGH BHAURA;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that the rainfall in the country during the current year was only 789 mm which is going to be lowest in dozen of years and projects a grim picture on water front;

(b) if so, whether experts have felt that there is a need of judicious use of rain water which may help to fight drought;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to launch various schemes in the country to harvest rain water for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the detials thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) According to India Meteorological Department, therainfall in the country during the current year is 833.9 mm by the end of monsoon season (i.e.30th September, 2000). The rainfall during this year's monsoon has been 8% lower than the long term average for the country as a whole. National Disaster Management (NDM), Ministry of Agriculture hasmentioned that due to the deficient rains during South- West Monsoon, the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan are experiencing the drought like conditions.
With a view to fight drought, the Government has taken various short term and long-term measures, which include the following:

(1) Central Water Commission and Ministry of Water Resources have advised the State Governments to regulate the releases from the reservoirs keeping in view the possible water deficit and making curtailment for irrigation in consultation with the State Agriculture Departments.

(2) For promotion of Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed management Programme, Artificial recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the Sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development, technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies.

(3) The exploratory tube wells drilled by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) are also transferred to the States for drinking water supply.

(4) For regulation and control of ground water the Central Ground Water Board has been constituted as an Authority under section 3(3) of the Environment Proteciton Act, 1986.

(5) To ensure regulation of ground water in a scientific manner, the Government of India had prepared a Model Bill in 1970, subsequently revised in 1992 and circulated to the States for enacting legislation.

(6) National Water Development Agency has formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development, which envisages inter-linking between various Peninsular Rivers and Himalayan Rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins.

(7) The Government has taken up Water Resources Consolidation Projects with the assistance of World Bank to improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country and early completion of ongoing schemes.

(8) Union Government has launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme(AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance to the State Governments for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stages of completion or mega projects which are beyond their resources capability.